

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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10

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 RSR-01

/085 W

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R 010907Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6996

INFO SECDEF

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CNO

CINCPACREPPHIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 8733

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJ: FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO COMPLAINS ABOUT NAVY VD PROJECT
IN OLONGAPO

1. THE CHARGE HAS RECEIVED A FIRST-PERSON NOTE WRITTEN BY
FONSEC ROMULO JULY 26 DEPLORING RECENT PUBLICITY ABOUT US NAVY-
SPONSORED VENEREAL DISEASE CONTROL STUDY INVOLVING US NAVY MEN
AND FILIPINO HOSTESSES IN THE SUBIC BAY AREA. THE TEXT OF THE NOTE
FOLLOWS:

QUOTE I WISH TO REFER TO NEWS ITEMS FROM THE JULY 7TH ISSUES OF
THE WASHINGTON POST AND THE WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS CONCERNING A
REPORTED VENEREAL DISEASE CONTROL STUDY INVOLVING U.S. NAVY MEN
AND FILIPINO "HOSTESSES" IN THE SUBIC BAY AREA. THE WASHINGTON
POST STORY APPEARED ON THE FRONT PAGE. WE ARE INFORMED THAT SIMILAR
STORIES APPEARED IN NEWSPAPERS ELSEWHERE IN THE U.S.

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT REGRETS THE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THIS
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STUDY BECAUSE THESE STORIES, NEEDLESS TO SAY, REFLECT BADLY ON

FILIPINO WOMEN AND ON PHILIPPINE SOCIETY IN GENERAL.

THIS INCIDENT IS ALL THE MORE DEPLORABLE IN VIEW OF THE INDICATIONS IN THE NEWS STORIES THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS APPARENTLY DREW THE ATTENTION OF THE PRESS TO THE PROJECT. IF IT IS TRUE THAT THE PUBLICITY WAS GENERATED BY U.S. AUTHORITIES, I WOULD REQUEST YOU TO CONVEY TO YOUR GOVERNMENT OUR GOVERNMENT'S DEEP CONCERN OVER THE INCIDENT.

I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY REQUEST HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT THIS STUDY IN THE PHILIPPINES. THIS DEPARTMENT NEVERTHELESS WISHES TO INFORM YOU THAT THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ALLOW IN THE FUTURE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, OR ANY GOVERNMENT FOR THAT MATTER, TO CONDUCT IN THE PHILIPPINES SUCH EXPERIMENTS AND UNDERTAKINGS OF A SIMILAR NATURE WHICH WOULD CAST UNFAVORABLE LIGHT ON PHILIPPINE SOCIETY, PARTICULARLY THOSE LIKELY TO BE OCCASIONS FOR UNFAVORABLE AND UNSAVORY PUBLICITY ON OUR COUNTRY, WHICH EXTENDS THE HOSPITALITY OF ITS SOIL TO U.S. ARMED FORCES.

ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGH CONSIDERATION.
END QUOTE.

2. I THINK IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO ACT QUICKLY TO PREVENT ANY HEAD OF STEAM DEVELOPING BEHIND THIS INITIAL SUGGESTION BY ROMULO FOR POLITICAL LEVEL REVIEW OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES, COMPARABLE TO THE RESTRICTIONS THAT HAVE CAUSED SO MUCH DIFFICULTY ELSEWHERE. AT A RECEPTION TODAY I ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF NOTE, TOLD ROMULO WE DEPLORED PUBLICITY WITH ITS IMPLICATION OF PHILIPPINE CITIZENS AS MUCH AS HE AND INDICATED TO HIM THAT PROJECT HAD, IN FACT, NOT BEEN UNILATERAL BUT COORDINATED AT LEAST AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. I HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED THE MATTER PRELIMINARILY WITH ADM. SHELTON, CINCPACREPPHIL, AND AS SOON AS HIS AND EMBASSY STAFFS HAVE REVIEWED FILES TO INSURE ACCURACY, WE WILL PREPARE A RESPONSE IN QUITE AND UNDERSTANDING TONE. WITHOUT SEEKING TO CAST BLAME IN OTHER DIRECTION, WE WILL PROBABLY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT INITIAL PUBLICITY EMERGED LOCALLY, FROM PHILIPPINE SOURCES, THAT PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE COMMENTS WERE IN REACTION TO REPLY OF THAT STORY IN U.S. MEDIA, AND TO CONVEY REGRET FROM NAVAL AUTHORITIES AS WELL IN NAME OF EMBASSY THAT PUBLICITY FOR THIS EPISODE HAS OCCURRED,
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TO EMBARRASS US BOTH.
HAMILTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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